



State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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JEFFREY A. MEYERS
COMMISSIONER

February 22, 2017

The Honorable Frank R. Kotowski
Chairman, Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 205
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

The Honorable Neal M. Kurk
Chairman, Legislative Fiscal Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 210
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Developmental Disability Wait List – Through January 31, 2017

Dear Representatives Kotowski and Kurk:

I am writing to provide a further update to the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Committee on the status of the Department and Area Agencies' efforts to provide services to people with developmental disabilities across New Hampshire. This letter updates the number of people expected to be served in State Fiscal Year 2017 and describes the increase in the number of people seeking services and how the Department is proposing to manage this increase. The data in this letter is through January 31, 2017.

The Department is on track to serve a total of 488 people in the current biennium, which are some 73 people more than planned in the SFY 2016-2017 budget. In SFY 2016, we served a total of 232 people. In the current fiscal year, we anticipate serving 256 people.

Because a total of 115 people who had previously come off the Wait List prior to July 1, 2016, have required new services since July 1, 2016, and a total of 44 new people become eligible between July 1, 2016, and October 30, 2016, the Wait List at the end of October was 203 people.

In response, the Department utilized Wait List funds that were carried over from FY 2016 to FY 2017 to provide services to an additional 70 people during October and November; the Wait List at the end of November was 161 people. As of December 31, 2016, the Wait List was at 177 people. In January this number increased to 194 people, while 9 people came off during the month, 26 people were added. Of the 26 people that were added, 13 are students leaving the school system and 13 are receiving one or more service (described below). The Wait List is fluid and we expect this number to increase between now and the end of June, as students continue to transition from the school system to the adult service system. The Department is working closely with the area agencies to handle crisis situations for those waiting for services. Attached to this letter is a chart that tracks the DD Wait List since July 2016 by category of recipient.

Not all of the 194 people are without services. Of this total, 102 are receiving one or more service. They remain on the Wait List because of a change in need and/or circumstance and they are seeking additional services from those they are currently receiving. Under the administrative rules governing the DD Wait List, people who have come off the Wait List and are receiving services must be placed back on the Wait List if they require additional services. Workforce and provider capacity challenges often impact the availability of these additional services.

The increased number of newly eligible people and those requiring new services is significant. At the time the SFY 2016-17 budget was initially passed, it assumed that 112, then-waiting for services, plus 150 additional people would be served in SFY 2016, or 262 people. In fact, 383 people sought DD Wait List services in SFY 2016. Thus far in SFY 2017, a total of 256 people have required services. This number is about 100 more people than anticipated thus far.

At the start of SFY 16, the DD system was faced with two significant challenges, programmatically and fiscally, and both impacted the Wait List. The first was the change in the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. There was a change in law that removed the exemption for companionship services. Prior to this change, staff who were considered companions were exempt from overtime and minimum wage rules. In the DD system, companions were used to provide live-in care. The second challenge was the closure of Lakeview. All of those people served at Lakeview from New Hampshire had to be relocated. All were at significantly higher cost to what was budgeted and paid to Lakeview. Those served at Lakeview were very high-need people and, to this day, the area agencies have struggled to fill the gaps in service for people with complex needs that was created with the close of Lakeview. There is a need to increase capacity in New Hampshire at the community level for the treatment of such people.

Additionally, while the projected average cost for DD services that was assumed in the current budget was approximately \$44,000 per person annually, the actual average cost for services in SFY 2016 was \$50,303. For SFY 2017, the average cost is projected at \$50,197.

The table below captures the numbers related to the Wait List funding activity for FY 16 and through January 31, 2017:

Number of people on the Wait List as of 7/1/2015	+101
Number of additional people requesting Wait List funding during FY 16	+282
Total number of people needing Wait List funding for FY 16	383
Number of people who received Wait List funds during FY 16	-232
Number of people remaining on the Wait List as of 6/30/2016	151
Number of additional people requesting funding through January 31, 2017	+190
Number of people who were taken off the Wait List through January 31, 2017	-147
Number of people remaining on the Wait List as of January 31, 2017	194

RSA 171-A refers to three distinct groups of people as prospective recipients of Wait List funds. The below table provides information regarding the number of people receiving Wait List funds in each of those three groups for FY 16:

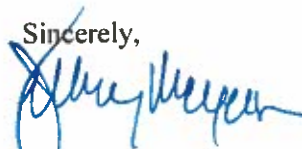
Number of students receiving FY 16 Wait List funds	126	54%
Number of new eligible people receiving FY 16 Wait List funds	44	19%
Number of people with additional needs receiving FY 16 Wait List funds	62	27%
Total number of people receiving Wait List funds during FY 16	232	100%

The numbers below are for the same three groups through January 31, 2017:

Number of students receiving Wait List funds during the first quarter of SFY 2017	146	57%
Number of new eligible people receiving Wait List funds during the first half of SFY 2017	23	9%
Number of people with additional needs receiving Wait List funds during the first half of SFY 2017	87	34%
Total number of people receiving Wait List funds during the half of SFY 2017	256	100%

The Department is continuing to work actively and collaboratively with the area agencies to meet the needs of those who are in need of services. I look forward to presenting this information at the upcoming Fiscal Committee meeting and the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee meeting.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner

cc: His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
The Honorable Executive Councilors
The Honorable Chuck W. Morse, Senate President
The Honorable Shawn Jasper, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Community Support Network, Inc.
Medical Care Advisory Committee